



ALEXANDRIA.

TUESDAY EVENING, DECEMBER 6.

THE FULL text of the decision rendered by the U. S. Supreme Court yesterday in the Virginia habeas corpus cases has not been published. The court room was crowded while it was being read, its delivery was rather indistinct, and much of it could therefore be heard only imperfectly. But the impression of some of those who listened to it as attentively as possible, is that while the court decided that a Virginia officer could not be enjoined by a federal Court from bringing suit against a Virginia taxpayer who had tendered Virginia coupons in payment of his taxes, to compel him to pay his taxes in money, for the reason that the court is not presumed to know how such a suit would result, the question would present an entirely different aspect if, after judgment, the officer should attempt to collect its amount by a levy on the taxpayer's property. To people not versed in the law it seems strange that a man should be allowed to bring a suit if he shall not be allowed to collect the judgment, but the form, as well as the principles of law, must be observed.

REPRESENTATIVE REED, the leader of the republicans in the U. S. House of Representatives, says "a reduction of duty causes an increased revenue." Then by all means the tariff should be removed from sugar, rice, fuel, clothing, medicine, iron and tin, and all the other prime necessities of life, and be reduced on many other things; for if enough revenue can be collected by a low tariff to meet the expenses of the government, why impose a high one, merely to raise the price of the products of protected American manufacturers, especially as experience proves that such an one does not increase wages?

ACCORDING to a decision of the interstate commerce commissioners, just rendered, there will be no more distinction on account of color in railroad accommodation. Senator Reagan, the father of the interstate commerce bill, when he shall return to Texas next summer, will probably, therefore, occupy the same berth in the sleeper that a colored man slept in the night before, or an under berth of a section in the upper one of which a colored man will be resting himself. In the mean time it will cost just as much to send freight a short as a long distance.

THE LETTER Mrs. Jefferson Davis wrote to those friends of her husband who intended raising a fund for the support of his family, thanking them, but requesting that the idea be abandoned, and saying that if the worst should come, the education she and her daughter had received would enable them to earn their own living, is a model of womanly grace and self respect, and reflects honor upon all her Southern sisters. Similar instances have occurred before, but, unfortunately for the benefit of the example to humanity, they are exceptions to the rule.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE is a strong and earnest appeal to the representatives of the people to repeal or reduce the tariff on the prime necessities of life and on the raw material of manufactures. It is hoped, for the good of the country, that this appeal may not be without effect. He also, and very wisely, opposes the famous Bismarck platform in another essential particular, by urging the continuance of the internal revenue system.

FROM WASHINGTON.
(Special Correspondence of the Alex. Gazette.)

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6, 1887.
The President's message was read in both branches of Congress today, to very attentive houses, for a rarity the members paying as much attention to its reading as the people in the crowded galleries. It was confined solely to a convincing argument in favor of reducing or removing entirely the tariff on raw material and the necessities of life. It also recommends the maintenance of the internal revenue taxes, as they are laid upon articles of luxury. The message was comparatively short. It was eminently satisfactory to a very large majority of the democratic members and to several republicans, but could hardly have been so to the democratic platform of their State took directly opposite grounds on both the points referred to, and was highly objectionable to the democratic members from North Carolina on account of its support of the internal revenue system. With these exceptions, however, and the small Randall contingent of Northern democrats, the message was approved by all the democratic members and by all the other democrats who heard it read.

Mr. Harry Smith, the old journal clerk of the House, has been removed by Col. Clarke, for the reason, the latter says, that he found a better democrat to fill his place.

In the House today Mr. Mills, who occupies Mr. Morrison's old seat, assumed the roll of democratic leader on the floor, by introducing a resolution that the committee on rules be announced before any others. It is understood that committee will be composed of Messrs. Reed, Cox, Randall and the Speaker.

The decision of the U. S. Supreme Court in the Virginia cases yesterday seems to be highly gratifying to most of the Virginia democrats at the Capitol today; but an old and able one, said it would do the State great harm, as it put off for an indefinite time the settlement of her seat.

The Speaker of the House told a friend today that before he vacated the chair to allow the House to elect the committee on elections, he would consult with the leading members on both sides so that each side might have time to select its own members of that committee.

The caucus committees of both parties in the Senate held meetings this morning and began their work of arranging representation

upon the regular and standing committees of the Senate. It is possible, though hardly probable, that the majority side will be completed to-morrow.

It is said to-day that the Speaker will be able to announce the House Committees before the Christmas recess.

The reason why Senator Biddleberger did not observe the usual custom yesterday and escort Senator Daniel to the desk of the Senate to be sworn in, was because he was not asked to do so and was not in his seat at the time.

Col. Mosby left San Francisco on the 1st for this city to prosecute his claim for the recovery of fees turned into the treasury, and is expected to arrive on Saturday.

Senator Biddleberger is on the Senate republican caucus committee which arranges all the political work of the session. He has not yet demanded the scalps of the Senate employees appointed by General Mahone.

Most of the Virginia republicans in the House are on each other, nearer the side than the middle aisle, on the republican side. Mr. Hopkins, the independent from the Lynchburg district, sits on the democratic side.

Each of the Virginia members of Congress, Senators as well as Representatives, was besieged today by crowds of their constituents anxious to secure their assistance in efforts to obtain employment under the government.

Among the decisions rendered by the U. S. Supreme Court yesterday was a remarkable one to the effect that selling liquor is not one of the rights of citizenship.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

James Brady, a notorious young white man, of Washington, was shot and seriously wounded in the left breast by an unknown negro last night.

John O. Snyder, the walking wonder, who was afflicted with an incurable disease which kept him walking continually, died yesterday at Mill Grove, Ind.

Virginia Robinson, colored on trial at Charlottesville, Va., for killing a colored child, has been found guilty of murder in the second degree and sentenced to ten years in the penitentiary.

Henry S. Ives says there is nothing in the rumor that the Ives-Staynor deal for the control of the Vendemia in the interest of the Cincinnati, Hamilton and Dayton road has been consummated.

It is reported that a duel is likely to be fought between two well-known newspaper men of New York city, Hermann Alexander, of the New York Zeitung, and Alexander Neumann, of the Staats Zeitung.

The republican national committee will meet at the Arlington Hotel, in Washington, on Thursday to select the city in which the next republican convention is to be held.

The contest has narrowed down to four cities—Washington, Chicago, New York and Philadelphia.

Ex Representative Thomas P. Ochiltree, of Texas, who has taken up his domicile in New York, will, it is said, be adopted by Tammany Hall and put up for Congress in one of the city districts next autumn. Col. Ochiltree has always since the war been a republican.

After the GAZETTE's report of the Congressional proceedings closed yesterday all of the democratic officers of the House of Representatives, nominated in caucus on Saturday night, were elected. The drawing for seats began in the House after two o'clock. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Cox were given their old seats.

At the meeting of the Methodist ministers in Chicago yesterday Rev. Dr. John Williamson, pastor of the Michigan Avenue Church, gave a very queer experience. He said that a year ago on account of ill health he was obliged to take a rest for a year. This weighed heavily on his mind, and he cried to the Lord for assistance. In answer he held a sweet communion with God, who assured him of a speedy recovery. His physician recently informed him that he was perfectly cured. He attributes it to a direct divine interposition.

Notes from Clarke.

(Correspondence of the Alexandria Gazette.)

A very handsome reception was given at "Tulerie's" the elegant residence of Col. U. L. Boyce on Friday last, in compliment to Mrs. Tyson, of Baltimore, who is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Tucker. A large number of guests were present and all regretted the absence of the Colonel, who was unavoidably detained from home upon important railroad business. His charming and accomplished wife, however, assisted by her aunt, the highly esteemed and well known Mrs. Col. Tuley, admirably filled the place of host and hostess.

One of the handsomest and most complete residences in the country is just being finished for Mr. Wm. G. Conrad, at present of Montana, containing all the modern improvements.

Bishop Whittle visited this county recently and confirmed a class of 17 at Millwood, the result of the earnest and successful efforts of the Rev. Dr. Randolph McKim at this "mission" during the past month.

The friends of Mrs. R. Hume Butcher, who was recently injured by being thrown from her carriage, will be glad to learn of her rapid improvement.

The continued drought is the subject of much comment among farmers. The scarcity of water is severely felt in many places for stock.

Mr. Thos. Burwell, who received an injury recently to his eye while hunting, has been to Philadelphia and had the eye taken out; he is doing well.

The many friends of Hon. John S. Barbour confidently look forward to his receiving the just reward of his services by a unanimous election to the U. S. Senate.

M.
Clarke county, December 5.

THE PETERSBURG NORMAL INSTITUTE.

The board of visitors of the Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute, of which John M. Langston is president, was in session yesterday. The object of the meeting of the board is twofold—first, to investigate the discipline of the college, which is not altogether what it should be, and also to investigate the charges that have been preferred against Langston by the entire faculty of the institute. These charges were to the effect that Langston came near inciting a riot at the college when some of the faculty undertook to correct some of the students for insubordination. These charges were brought to the attention of the State board of education. An effort is being made to defeat Langston's re-election next month, at which time his term of office will expire. A few days ago a number of the students went over to Richmond and called on Governor Lee in the interest of Langston's re-election. Yesterday this action of the students was brought to the attention of the board, which caused quite an exciting and strong debate.

COURT OF APPEALS YESTERDAY.—Piedmont Electric & Illuminating Co. against Paterson's administrator. Passed.

Robins against Armstrong, Cator & Co. Passed. Airline Turnpike and Drawbridge Co. against Culp. Argued by John Neely for appellants and Judge L. R. Watts and G. Hutton for appellees. Submitted.

Tail's executor against Central Lunatic Asylum. Submitted.

Stovall against Commonwealth. Submitted. Rosenberg against Bowen. Submitted.

Courtney against Beale; Jones and wife against Dege; Hodgson against Perkins; Lee against Hill; Stone against Lewis's administrator. Sent to the docket.

G. Hutton, esq., was allowed to practice as counsel in this Court.



TO-DAY'S TELEGRAPHIC NEWS.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6, 1887.—The President sent to Congress to-day his message, which relates almost exclusively to a discussion of the tariff, and gives cogent reasons for a radical revision of the laws and reduction in the rates. It opens as follows:

To the Congress of the United States:
You are confronted at the threshold of your legislative duties with a condition of the national finances which imperatively demands immediate and careful consideration.

The amount of money annually exacted, through the operation of present laws, from the industries and necessities of the people, largely exceeds the sum necessary to meet the expenses of the Government.

When we consider that the theory of our institutions guarantees to every citizen the full enjoyment of all the fruits of his industry and enterprise, with only such deduction as may be his share towards the careful and economical maintenance of the Government which protects him, it is plain that the exaction of more than this is indefensible extortion, and a culpable betrayal of American fairness and justice. This wrong inflicted upon those who bear the burden of national taxation, like other wrongs, multiplies a brood of evil consequences. The public treasury, which should only exist as a conduit conveying the people's tribute to its legitimate objects of expenditure, becomes a boarding place for money needlessly withdrawn from trade and the people's use, thus crippling our national energies, suspending our country's development, preventing investment in productive enterprise, threatening financial disturbance, and inviting schemes of public plunder.

This condition of our treasury is not altogether new; and it has more than once of late been submitted to the people's representatives in the Congress, who alone can apply a remedy. And yet the situation still continues, with aggravated incidents, more than ever pressing financial convulsion and wide-spread disaster.

It will not do to neglect this situation because its dangers are not now palpably imminent and apparent. They exist none the less, and await the unforeseen and unexpected occasion when suddenly they will be precipitated upon us.

Our surplus revenues have continued to accumulate, the excess for the present year amounting on the 1st day of December to \$55,258,701.19, and estimated to reach the sum of \$113,000,000 on the 30th of June next, at which date it is expected that this sum, added to prior accumulations, will swell the surplus in the Treasury to \$140,000,000.

In the present state of legislation the only pretense of any existing executive power to restore, at this time, any part of our surplus revenues to the people by its expenditure, consists in the supposition that the Secretary may enter the market and purchase the bonds of the Government not yet due, at a rate of premium to be agreed upon. No condition ought to exist which would justify the grant of power to a single official, upon his judgment of its necessity, to withhold from or release to the business of the people, in an unusual manner, money held in the Treasury, and thus affect, at his will, the financial situation of the country; and if it is deemed wise to lodge in the Secretary of the Treasury the authority in the present juncture to purchase bonds, it should be plainly vested, and provided as far as possible, with such checks and limitations as will define this official's right and discretion, and at the same time relieve him from undue responsibility.

The proposition to deposit the money held by the Government in banks throughout the country, for use by the people, is, in principle, as establishing too close a relationship between the operations of the Government Treasury and the business of the country, and too extensive a commingling of their money, thus fostering an unnatural reliance in private business upon public funds.

Our scheme of taxation by means of which this needless surplus is taken from the people and put into the public treasury, consists of a tariff or duty levied upon importations from abroad, and internal revenue taxes levied upon the consumption of tobacco and spirituous and malt liquors. It must be conceded that none of the things subjected to internal revenue taxation are, strictly speaking, necessities; there appears to be no just complaint of this taxation by the consumers of these articles, and there seems to be nothing so well able to bear the burden without hardship to any portion of the people.

But our present tariff laws, the vicious, inequitable, and illogical source of unnecessary taxation, ought to be at once revised and amended. These laws raise the price to consumers of all articles imported and subject to duty, by precisely the sum paid for such duties. Many of these things, however, are raised or manufactured in our own country, and the duties now levied upon foreign goods and products are called protection to these home manufactures, because they render it possible for those of our people who are manufacturers, to make these taxed articles and sell them for a price equal to that demanded for the imported goods that have paid customs duty. So it happens that while comparatively a few use the imported articles, millions of our people, who never use and never saw any of the foreign products, purchase and use things of the same kind made in this country, and pay therefor nearly or quite the same enhanced price which the duty adds to the imported articles. Those who buy imports pay the duty charged thereon into the public treasury, but the great majority of our citizens, who buy domestic articles of the same class, pay a sum at least approximately equal to this duty to the home manufacturer.

It is not proposed to entirely relieve the country of this taxation. It must be extensively continued as the source of the Government's income; and in a readjustment of our tariff the interests of American labor engaged in manufacture should be carefully considered, as well as the preservation of our manufacturers. But this existence should not mean a condition which, without regard to the public welfare or a national exigency, must always insure the realization of immense profits instead of moderately profitable returns. When an attempt is made to justify a scheme which permits a tax to be laid upon every consumer in the land for the benefit of our manufacturers, quite beyond a reasonable demand for governmental regard, it suits the purpose of advocacy to call our manufacturers infant industries, still needing the highest and greatest degree of favor and fostering care that can be wrung from federal legislation.

It is also said that the increase in the price of domestic manufactures resulting from the present tariff is necessary in order that higher wages may be paid to our workmen employed in manufactures, than are paid for what is called the pauper labor of Europe. All will acknowledge the force of an argument which involves the welfare and life of compensation of our laboring people.

Our labor is honorable in the eyes of every American citizen; and is entitled to the utmost regard. There are 2,623,689 persons employed in such manufacturing industries as are claimed to be benefited by a high tariff. To these the appeal is made to save their employment and maintain their wages by resisting a change. There should be no disposition to answer such suggestions by the allegation that they are in a minority among those who labor, and therefore should forego an advantage, in the interest of low prices for the majority, and their compensation, as it may be affected by the operation of tariff laws, should at all times be scrupulously kept in view; and yet with slight reflection they will not overlook the fact that they are consumers with the rest; that they, too, have their own wants and those of their families to supply from their earnings, and that the price of the necessities of life, as well as the amount of their wages, will regulate the measure of their welfare and comfort.

But the reduction of taxation demanded should be so measured as not to necessitate or justify either the loss of employment by the working man nor the lessening of his wages. Nor can the worker in manufactures fail to understand that while a high tariff is claimed to be necessary to allow the payment of remunerative wages, it certainly results in a very large increase in the price of nearly all sorts of manufactures. He receives his wages, and perhaps before he reaches his home is obliged, in a purchase for family use of an article which embraces his own labor, to return in the payment of the increase in price which the tariff permits, the hard-earned compensation of many days of toil.

The farmer and the agriculturist who manufacture nothing, but who pay the increased price which the tariff imposes upon all he wears and upon all he owns, except the increase of his flocks and herds and such things as his husbandry produces from the soil, is told that a high duty on imported wool is necessary in order that the price of his wool may be increased. They of course are not reminded that the farmer who has no sheep is by this scheme obliged, in his purchases of clothing and woolen goods, to pay a tribute to his fellow farmer as well as to the manufacturer and merchant; nor is any mention made of the fact that the sheep-owners themselves and their households, must wear clothing manufactured from the wool they sell at tariff prices, and thus as consumers must return their share of this increased price to the tradesman.

The President argues for a reduction on wool and woolen goods, and gives his reasons why the removal or reduction of the duty on wool should be included in a revision of the tariff law.

Under our present laws, he says, more than four thousand articles are subject to duty. Many of these do not in any way compete with our own manufactures, and many are hardly worth attention as subjects of revenue. A considerable reduction can be made in the aggregate, by adding them to the free list. The taxation of luxuries presents no features of hardship; but the necessities of life used and consumed by all the people should be greatly cheapened.

Both of the great political parties now represented in the Government have condemned the condition of our laws which permit the collection from the people of unnecessary revenue, and have, in the most solemn manner, promised its correction; and neither as citizens or partisans are our countrymen in a mood to condone the deliberate violation of these pledges.

The simple and plain duty which we owe the people is to reduce taxation to the necessary expenses of an economical operation of the Government, and to restore to the business of the country the money which we hold in the Treasury through the perversion of governmental powers.

The Constitution provides that the President "shall, from time to time, give to the Congress information of the state of the Union," but I am so much impressed with the paramount importance of the subject to which this communication has thus far been devoted, that I shall forego the addition of any other topic.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 6.

SENATE.

After the reading of the Journal the presiding officer asked whether it was the pleasure of the Senate to proceed with the usual morning business.

Mr. Harris suggested that bills and memorials might be introduced and referred.

Mr. Hoar opposed the proposition, stating that it was an ancient custom of the Senate not to enter upon any ordinary business until after hearing the communication from the President at the beginning of the session. That was a mark of respect due from the legislative department of the government to the executive. He therefore moved a recess for half an hour.

The motion was agreed to.

After the recess had been extended for a quarter of an hour longer.

Mr. Morrill reported that the joint committee, appointed to wait upon the President, had performed that duty and had been informed that the President would immediately communicate with Congress in writing.

Thereupon Mr. O. L. Pruden, one of the President's secretaries, presented several messages in writing; and the presiding officer laid before the Senate the President's annual message.

Mr. McCook, Secretary of the Senate, at five minutes past one commenced the reading of the message.

The reading of the message was concluded at half-past one, when the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

Mr. Mills, of Texas, offered a resolution directing the Speaker to appoint the committees on rules, accounts, enrolled bills and mileage, each to consist of the same number of members as is provided for by the rules of the 49th Congress and referring the rules of the 49th Congress to the committee on rules when appointed. The resolution was adopted.

Mr. Cox, of New York, chairman of the committee appointed to wait upon the President and inform him of the organization of the House, reported that the committee had performed its duty, and that the President would communicate with the House forthwith.

A number of amendments to the rules were submitted and referred.

A number of bills were presented, and at 12:20 a recess was taken until 12:40 and a subsequent recess until 1:10.

At the expiration of the recess, the President's private secretary appeared at the bar of the House with the President's annual message. After it had been read, the House adjourned until Thursday.

Nominations.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.—The President has sent the following nominations to the Senate:

Lucius Q. C. Lamar, of Mississippi, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

William F. Vilas, of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of the Interior.

Don M. Dickinson, of Michigan, to be Postmaster General.

Charles S. Fairchild, of New York, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

George L. Rives, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of State.

Isaac H. Maynard, of New York, to be Assistant Secretary of the Treasury.

Signorey Butler, of Massachusetts, to be Second Comptroller of the Treasury.

James W. Hyatt, of Connecticut, to be Treasurer of the United States.

A Challenge.

Boston, Dec. 6.—Patsy Shepherd has received the following cablegram from Fredrick Normansell and John Dexter, of Birmingham, England, who were the backers of Jim Carney in his last winning battle against Jacob Hyams:

BIRMINGHAM, Dec. 5.
We will match Jim Carney to fight McAuliffe in Great Britain or on the continent, and will bet £2,000 against £1,000 and give McAuliffe £200 for expenses. Send articles by next mail to London Sportsman.

Burned to Death.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 6.—A Brainerd, Minn., special to the Pioneer Press reports that at Wright's station two children of a family named Roberts, aged eight and ten, were burned to death by the burning of the family residence. The mother escaped, jumping from an upstairs window with a babe in her arms. The father was so badly burned he may not recover.

VIRGINIA NEWS.

The Warrenton stock cattle market is becoming a little more active, lots of two to six carloads coming in.

It is reported that the opposition to Mr. Sully's re-election as president of the West Point Terminal Company has almost disappeared.

At Winchester the trial of T. A. Ridenour, charged with the murder of Andrew Broy, was yesterday postponed to the January term of the County Court.

Mr. Samuel B. Witt has been selected by the democratic members of the Legislature from Richmond as their choice for judge of the Hastings Court of that city.

Dr. Edgar Woods, of Charlottesville, has left for China, whither he goes as medical missionary under the auspices of the Presbyterian missions at Tsing Kiangpu.

A colored man named Henry Braxton, employed at the Tredegar Works, at Richmond, was struck on the head by a falling pulley and had his skull fractured in two places. He died in a few moments.

Thos. C. Walston, a prominent and well-known lawyer of Accomac county, is critically ill in Richmond with blood poisoning and pneumonia. Blood poisoning was due to the root of a tooth being broken off while being extracted.

Dr. T. C. Montague, member elect to the Legislature from Stafford, went to Fredericksburg yesterday with his wife, driving a buggy, when his horse took right, ran away, upsetting the buggy and inflicting serious injuries upon Mrs. Montague.

It is thought that a caucus of the democratic members of the Legislature will be held on Thursday or Friday night for the purpose of nominating Mr. Barbour for the U. S. Senate. The caucus to nominate the Senate and House officers will be held tonight.

The Governor yesterday issued a requisition on the Washington authorities for a colored woman named Homerelle Washington, who is charged in Fauquier county with the larceny of blankets, sheets, and jewelry from Mr. H. C. Madlux, at the Fauquier White Sulphur Springs last September.

State officials say that the effect of the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court yesterday will be to enforce the provisions of the act known as the "coupon crusher" in every county in the State. Suits will now be instituted and pressed to a judgment against all persons tendering coupons in payment of taxes.

While returning from a hunting party, near Liberty, Bedford county, yesterday, J. L. Burnett, threw his gun on his shoulder, when it was accidentally discharged, the load lodging in the head of Ed. Wade, who was immediately behind him, tearing his head open in a frightful manner and producing death in a short time.

Richard Willis, colored, who was shot on Friday night in Northampton by Sergeant Evans while attempting to escape arrest, died on Sunday morning. A coroner's jury was summoned, and the examination of the witnesses resulted in the arrest of the sergeant who was released on bail for his appearance at the preliminary hearing, on Saturday next. The negroes are much enraged and violent threats have been made against the sergeant's life. Mr. Macubbin, the deputy who was summoned to assist in the arrest of the pariah to the disturbance is seriously injured and is in a critical condition. It is feared that lock-jaw will set in, as his jaws and neck are rigid.

"Adam the goodliest man of men since born," still could not be called exactly enviable, for when he tilted the ground in the dewy twilight and caught a sharp touch of rheumatism, he had no Salvation Oil for his cure, and no twenty-five cents to try it.

MEDICINAL.

DR. HENLEY'S EXTRACT OF GELERY.

TRADE MARK.

BEEF & IRON.

A Most Effective Combination.

This will control Tonic and Nerveine is raising great reputation as a cure for Debility, Dyspepsia, and NERVOUS Disorders. It relieves all languid and debilitated conditions of the system; strengthens the intellect, and bodily functions; builds up worn out Nerves; aids digestion; restores strength and vigor. It is pleasant to the taste, and used regularly braces the system against the depressing influence of Malaria.

Price—\$1.00 per Bottle of 24 ounces. FOR SALE BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

PINE IMPERIAL TEA, only 50c per lb, just received by [seal] J. C. MILEURN.

John Jacob Astor the Fourth.

A stir in high social circles was made by last week's debut of John Jacob Astor the Fourth. He is the only son of William Astor, who at present divides the Astor millions equally with John Jacob Astor the Third. His enormous financial importance can be imagined. He is just from graduation at Harvard, and his advent in his particular coterie was made at a very formal dinner given by his mother. The significance of this occasion was increased and emphasized by the fact that eight girls, eligible to matrimony with him, were among the guests. They were the Misses May Brady, daughter of Judge Brady; Miss Hewitt, daughter of Mayor Hewitt; Miss Winslow, a debutante beauty from Albany; Charlotte Winthrop, a representative of Boston culture; Belle Wilson, a sister-in-law of Mrs. Orme Astor-Wilson; Miss Paget, Miss Barbey and Miss Turnure. The famous service of solid gold, costing a hundred thousand dollars, was used on this great occasion, and the hostess wore diamonds of still larger value. There were seats available for about a hundred. John Jacob Astor the Fourth sat at the right hand of Mrs. Astor. He wore a swallow-tail coat, very low vest, and black trousers of nearly only perfect fit, for he has since early youth been remarkable for careful costume. He is tall, lean and big boned, lacking in the solid, Englishly appearance of his father. His features are irregular, the nose being indicative of power rather than beauty. In short, he is far from being a handsome young man. His age is twenty. He will not enter upon any other career than that of a millionaire. He will neither go into a business or a profession. His attainments are ordinary, but he is quite able to figure as a society beau, and as such he will participate in all of the six exclusively swell balls to occur at Delmonico's, in December. Scheming mothers will keep their eyes on him, and apt daughters will not neglect their chances to win such a prize. John Jacob Astor the Fourth would be the possessor of not less than eighty millions if he were to inherit his father's half of the Astor estate to-morrow. The whole of that enormous fortune, as estimated by a real estate expert, now amounts to \$100,000,000; but a calculation is largely guesswork, for the property is all in houses and land, in New York city, the actual value of which could only be fixed by a sale. The policy of the Astors has always been to invest their accumulations of their wealth in vacant lots. Thus the steady rise in values has tremendously enhanced their riches, and the authority already quoted says that if appreciation goes on for another quarter of a century as it has during the last the Astors can hardly help getting into the twentieth century with \$250,000,000. A correspondent made this way, yesterday, from the outer to the inner office of the Astor brothers. The building looks like a bank, with many clerks and other hindrances to a personal interview with either William or John Jacob the Third. It was only by asserting important business that the presence of William Astor was gained.

MONETARY AND COMMERCIAL.

NEW YORK, Dec. 6.—The opening of the stock market this morning was rather heavy, most stocks being from 3/4 to 3/8 per cent. below the closing prices of last evening. The market was moderately active, Richmond and West Point being prominent. Prices were somewhat irregular in the early dealings, but the entire list soon became strong, the declines from the opening figures being for insignificant fractions only. Richmond and West Point advanced 3/4, and the remainder smaller fractions. Late in the hour business again weakened and a portion of the advance was lost. At 11 o'clock the market was quiet and heavy with irregular changes of small fractions from the opening figures. Money easy at 4 1/2.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 6.—Virginia 6s consolidated 45; just due coupons 64 1/2; new 3s, 65 1/2; 10-40 35 bid to-day.

ALEXANDRIA MARKET, December 6.—The